

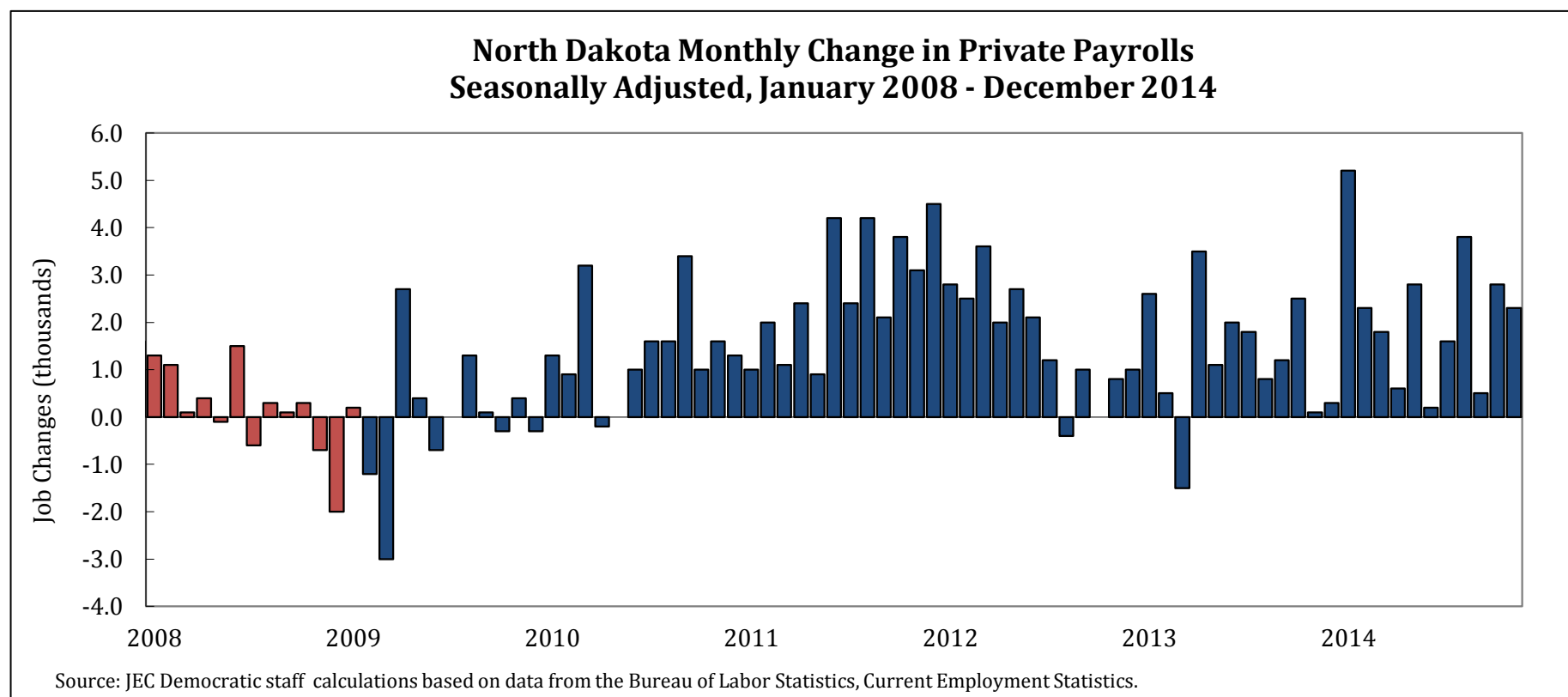


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: NORTH DAKOTA

Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through December 2014

JOBS

- In December, private-sector employment in North Dakota grew by 2,300 jobs. Over the past year, the North Dakota private sector has added 24,200 jobs. This compares with an increase of 15,600 jobs over the 12 months ending in December 2013.
- North Dakota private-sector employers have added 105,200 jobs (an increase of 36.2 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In North Dakota, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: trade, transportation and utilities (30,700 jobs), mining and logging (27,600 jobs) and construction (19,300 jobs).
- The North Dakota sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: mining and logging (324.7 percent), construction (90.6 percent) and trade, transportation and utilities (38.9 percent).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in North Dakota was 2.8 percent in December 2014, up 0.1 percentage point from November. The rate is up 0.1 percentage point from one year earlier but remains below its recent peak of 4.2 percent in May 2009.
- 11,600 North Dakota residents were unemployed during December 2014, down from a recent high of 15,700 in April 2009. There are still 400 more people unemployed in North Dakota than when the recession began.
- In North Dakota, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 2,296 during December, down 9.2 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 13.1 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

EXPORTS

- In North Dakota, exports totaled \$548 million in November and \$5.0 billion over the past year, up 37.4 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2013 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- North Dakota exports over the past 12 months are up 91.2 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

HOUSING

- Home prices in North Dakota increased by 7.1 percent from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). North Dakota home prices generally rose throughout the recession and recovery, and they are now 38.4 percent above their level in the fourth quarter of 2007.
- Housing starts in North Dakota totaled 9,220 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in November 2014, a decrease of 36.5 percent from October.
- Within the Midwest census region, which includes North Dakota, sales of new single-family homes totaled 54,000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in December 2014, a decrease of 11.5 percent from November. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased by 3.8 percent to 1,020,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from November to December 2014.

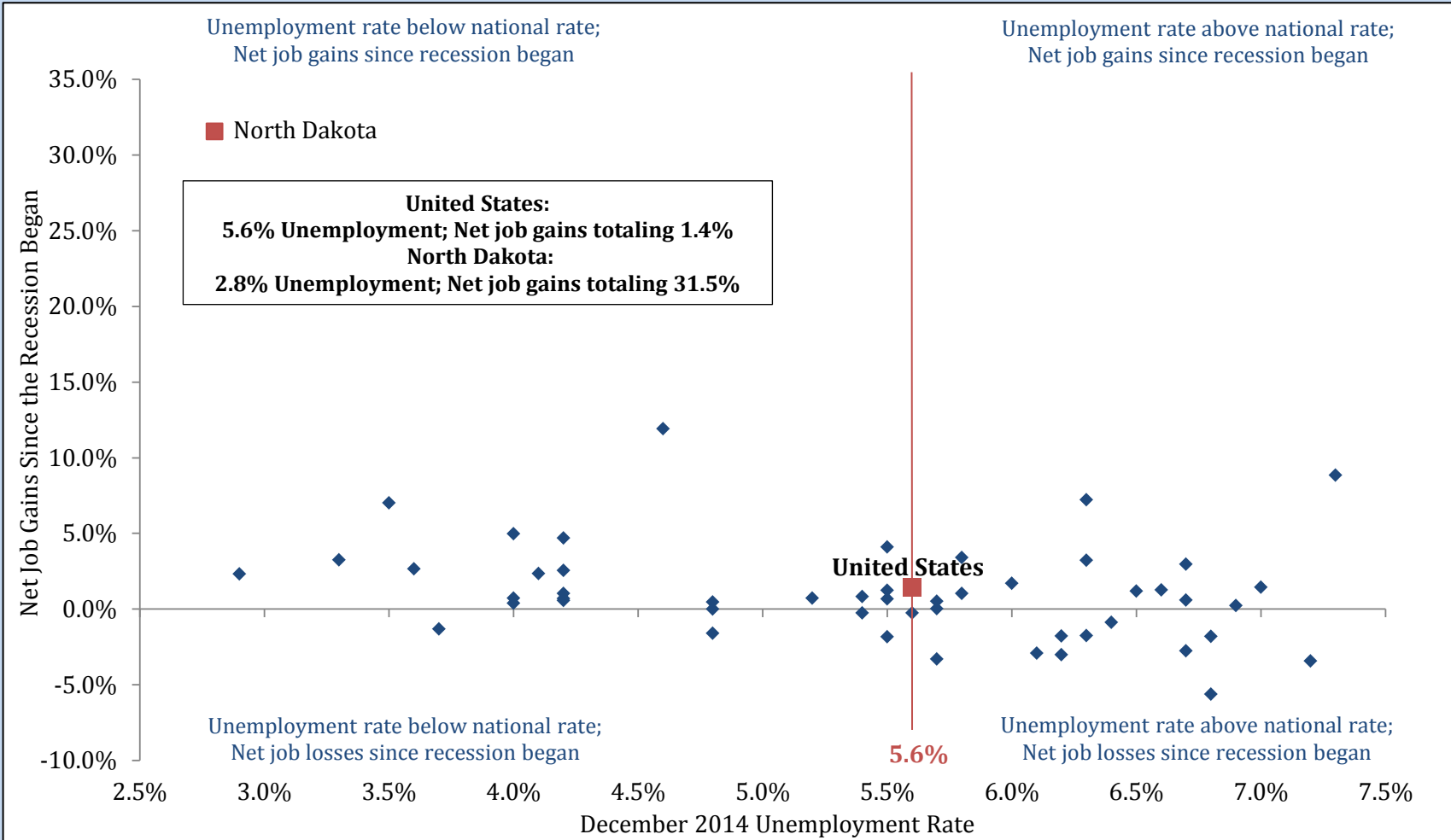
* For North Dakota-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the North Dakota office:
<https://www.ndworkforceintelligence.com/analyzer/default.asp>

How Does North Dakota Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of North Dakota to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in North Dakota, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



STATE QUICK FACTS

		North Dakota	United States
Unemployment Rate	December 2014	2.8%	5.6%
	December 2013	2.7%	6.7%
	December 2012	3.0%	7.9%
	December 2011	3.1%	8.5%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2013	9.8%	9.0%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	3.2%	6.6%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate.....	2013	7.5%	9.0%
Median Household Income (2013 \$).....	2013	\$ 52,888	\$ 51,939
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	\$ 53,034	\$ 56,436
Poverty Rate	2013	9.9%	14.5%
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	9.3%	12.5%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2013	10.4%	14.5%
(American Community Survey)			